

1863
BRANCH OF THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION.

THIRD SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Woman's Central Association of Relief,

No. 10 COOPER UNION,

NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER 1, 1863.

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We know how faithfully many of these little societies have worked for months; how the prices of materials have risen; how the funds have given out; how—the excitement having died out—the work has been sustained as long as was possible by the few most earnest members. We know and sympathize with you in all these difficulties, and only wish to help you in overcoming them. The "Plan of Organization for Country Societies," to be found in the appendix, is designed, by making a division of labor, to take the burden off the few and distribute it among the many. From experience of the actual working of that plan, in all its details, as well as of the "Alert Club" system, we can recommend it for general adoption. There are few loyal members of a community in the United States who cannot give their twenty, or at least their ten, cents a month towards the care and comfort of our sick and wounded soldiers; there are few women who are unable, if they want to, to give two hours of their time every week to the sewing society. And should this last for years—what then? Can country and church societies work for the "Children's Aid

armies—the Mississippi River, that great western highway of 2000 miles, open to the uninterrupted commerce of all nations, flowing once more peacefully, quietly to its home in the Gulf of Mexico; Chattanooga, grim headland, for so long frowning down upon us defiantly, now occupied by our forces—the invaders driven from Pennsylvania—Sumter battered to pieces—and our cannon at this moment thundering at the doors of Charleston with a persistency which, though it may appear slow to our impatience, means to be sure in its result.

their health and

necessary.

Yet, notwithstanding all these steady workers have done, we have to lament that they have not been a larger company. Our supplies, instead of increasing, have decreased since our last report ; and since the heavy draughts made upon us for supplying the demands of the soldiers on the coast, and especially of our corps at or near Charleston, South Carolina, our store-house has run down to a very low ebb.

It is, therefore, with sincere regret that we have noticed, in the reports received from Associate Managers lecturers and

of some society recorded on our books—"dead a year—but hopes to revive." Dead a year! How is this? Why is this? Was it because it was thought impossible to do anything more, or because the impression prevailed that the need for exertion no longer existed? It must have been one of these two reasons for discontinuing a work which only those who were earnest and zealous in the cause could have started.

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We have lately been anxiously asking ourselves what we can do to reanimate the interest of our constituents, and help them to overcome the obstacles with which they have to contend.

One suggestion we propose to give immediate effect to. It is this. We propose to purchase, at wholesale prices in the city, materials for our country societies, in order to save them the labor and increased expense of purchasing in their smaller markets. When inconvenient for one society to purchase by the wholesale, two or more neighboring societies might club together for this purpose. Directions for carrying out this suggestion will be found in the card appended to this report.

Lately the following very natural questions have been asked us by our friends :

1. You say that the Medical Department of the Government is daily becoming more and more efficient, that army surgeons have learned their duties, the dishonest and incompetent are gradually being weeded out, and every succeeding battle-field testifies to the increased thoughtfulness and zeal of our Surgeon-General. This is fully and thankfully acknowledged in all the late publications of the Commission ; and yet, on the last page appears the inevitable "list of supplies needed," with the statement that they will be needed as long as the war shall last. Why is this ?

2. Letters are now being daily received and published from surgeons of general hospitals in and near Washington, New York, &c., to their friends at home, saying : "Nothing more is needed—the hospital fund is sufficient—Government supplies us with everything. You need not work any more." And this from perfectly reliable men, whose word we cannot and do not doubt. How is this explained ?

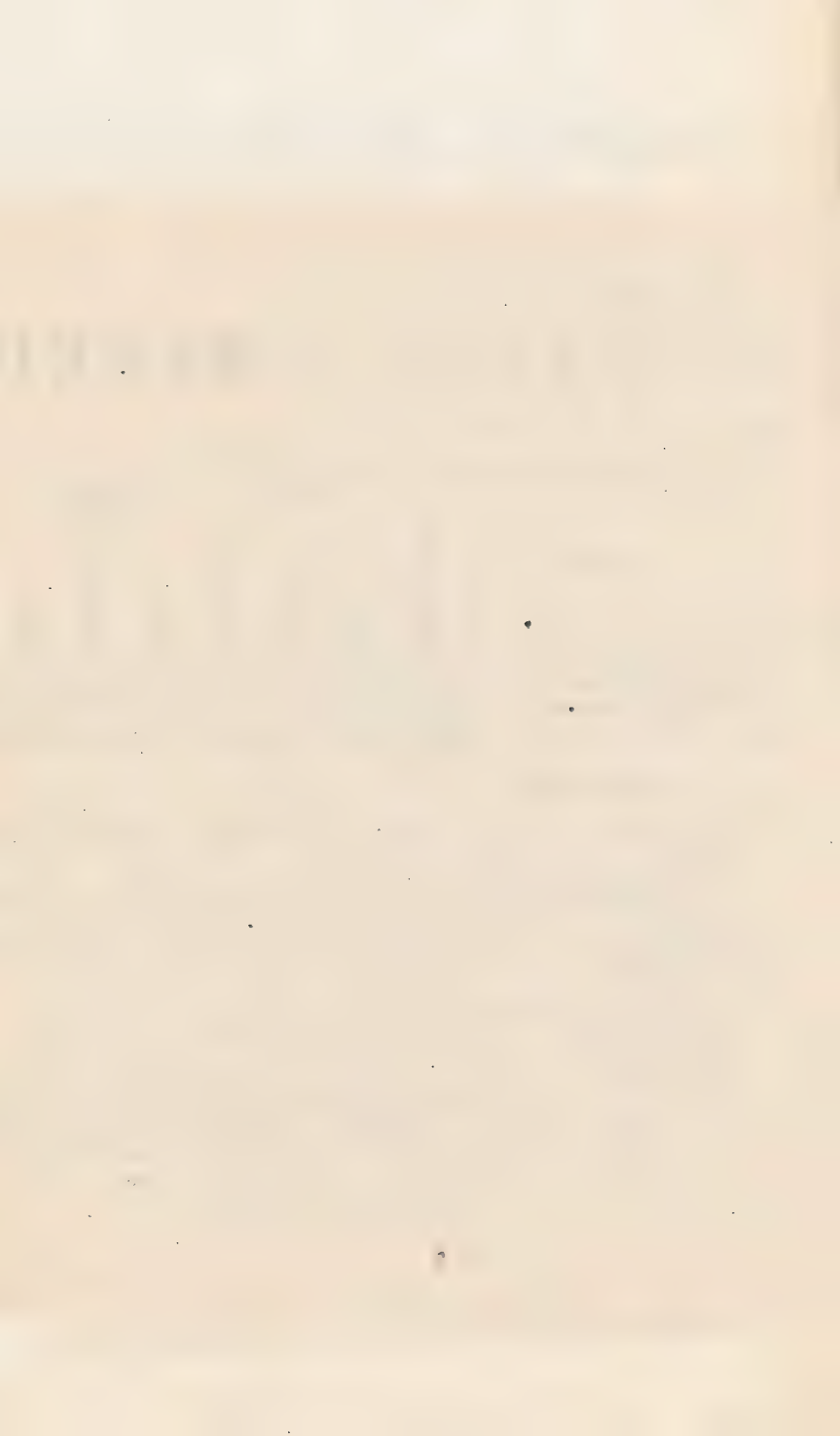
These questions may be answered by the statement that, whereas the demand for supplies remains the same, the disposition of these supplies is continually changing.

At first, the supplies of the Commission went principally to the general hospitals in and near Washington and the larger cities ; to the "Floating Hospitals" plying between the Penin-

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From May 1st to November 1st, 1863.

† Containing 1,782 Bottles.



Dr.

Sub-committee on Supplies in account with Treasurer W. C. R. A.

Cr.

1863.	May 1.	Balance in hand.....	\$290 52	By Cash pd. Rent of Office and Store-rooms...	\$530 00
	Nov. 1.	Received from Treasurer.....	5,500 00	“ “ Freight on Goods received.....	627 47
				“ Advertising, Printing, Postage, and Stationery.....	509 87
				“ Hospital Delicacies, Clothing, and Bedding, to meet extra demand.....	2,134 45
				“ Boxes, Straps, and other miscellaneous items.....	576 72
				“ pd. Porters' Wages.....	983 23
				Balance in hand this day	428 78
			\$5,790 52		
		Balance.....	\$428 78		\$5,790 52

NEW YORK, Nov. 1st, 1863.

APPENDIX.

SUPPLIES WANTED FOR THE HOSPITALS.

Woolen Shirts and Drawers of ordinary make and size.
Dressing-gowns of double calico.
Carpet Slippers, with stiff soles; Woolen Socks.
Bed Sacking, of ticking or burlap, 7 feet long and 3 feet wide; slit $\frac{1}{2}$ yard long in the middle, with strings.
Sheets, 4 feet wide and 8 feet long.
Blankets and Quilts.
India-rubber Cloth; Oiled Silk.
Second-hand Coats, Pantaloon, Boots, and Shoes.

EDIBLES.

Arrowroot; Farina; Sago; Tapioca; Corn Starch.
Tea; Coffee; Cocoa; Sugar; Oatmeal; Crackers.
Whiskey; Brandy; White Wine—for wine whey, etc.
Pure Lemon Syrup; Condensed Milk; Pickles.
Jellies; Dried Apples and Peaches.

Boxes should be directed—

WOMAN'S CENTRAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION,
10 Cooper Union,
NEW YORK.

From.....

Send two copies of invoice—one inclosed in the box, and the other by *Mail*.

Wines, syrups, etc., should be packed in separate small boxes, which may be put within large cases of clothing, if more convenient and economical. Bottles should have the cork tied or sealed over. They should be packed in sawdust as firmly as possible. When packed with clothing they are often broken and upset. *Every* bottle should be labeled.

MATERIALS.

Country societies desiring to purchase any specified material *by the piece* can be supplied at the cheapest market prices by forwarding the money in advance, directed to the Purchasing Committee of the Woman's Central Relief Association, No. 10 Cooper Union, New York. Express charges must be paid by the parties for whom the goods are purchased.

TRANSPORTATION.

The freight charges upon all hospital supplies will be paid upon delivery at No. 10 Cooper Union, New York.

The Harlem, New Haven, and Brooklyn and Jamaica, and Long Island Railroads carry supplies, marked "U. S. Sanitary Commission," free of charge; also the American, National, and United States Express Companies.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN will be published on the first and fifteenth of each month. It will contain all information necessary to soldiers and their families, besides interesting reports and letters. We bespeak for it a careful perusal.

The following books will be found both interesting and instructive to all who feel an interest in the great cause, and in the work of the Sanitary Commission:

HOSPITAL TRANSPORTS. A Memoir of the Embarkation of the Sick and Wounded from the Peninsula of Virginia in the summer of 1862. Compiled and published at the request of the Sanitary Commission.

This book, retailed at 75 cts. per copy, will be furnished by Ticknor & Fields, Publishers, Boston, Mass., for the use of Soldiers' Aid Societies, at 40 cts. per copy.

THE U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION. A sketch of its purposes and its work. Compiled from documents and private papers. Published by permission.

This book contains a rapid but accurate account of the Sanitary Commission, of its organization, of its branches, of its department of inspection, of its fields of work, namely: 1st. General relief in the

armies of Virginia, in the armies of the West, in the armies of the Gulf and Atlantic Coast. 2d. Special relief in the Homes, Lodges, &c., &c., and the Hospital Directory. It is written and published for the benefit of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

All persons desirous of knowing the truth about the Sanitary Commission are requested to read it.

All persons desirous of aiding the Sanitary Commission are requested to buy it, for the entire profits of the book will be given to the Treasury of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

Price 75 cents. For sale by Messrs. Little & Brown, Publishers, Boston, Mass. Orders can be sent by mail, The book will be ready for issue December 18th, 1863.

The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the following hospitals, apply to Woman's Central Association of Relief, No. 10 Cooper Union :

Hospital at Portsmouth Grove, R. I. (Lovell Hospital).

David's Island, N. Y. (McDougal Hospital).

Fort Schuyler, N. Y.

Fort Columbus, N. Y.

Newark, N. J.

Ladies' Home, 51st Street.

St. Joseph's Hospital, Central Park.

Mason Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Knight " New Haven, Conn.

Burlington, Vermont.

Brattleboro', "

Convalescent Hospital, Fort Wood, Bedloe's Island.

Pensions, back pay, &c.: William F. Bascom, Pension Agent, Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C.

THE WORK OF THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

The following whole-souled acknowledgement of the noble efforts of the Sanitary Commission was sent to the President of the General Aid Society at Buffalo, for publication. Coming, as it does, from an agent of what many regard as a rival organization, the tribute it contains acquires additional force ;

S. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION, BRANCH OFFICE, }
NASHVILLE, TENN., July 23, 1863. }

Dr. J. S. Newberry, Sec. West. Dept. U. S. San. Commission :

MY DEAR SIR: I desire, on behalf of the Christian Commission, to render grateful acknowledgments for the uniform, generous, and cordial co-operation of yourself and the Agents of your Commission, in our work of bringing spiritual comforts and blessings to the soldiers. But for your assistance at the first, and its continuance all along, our work would have been greatly impeded in the army of the Cumberland.

Also, in my recent trip to Vicksburg, in the service of the Christian Commission, I was, at all points, kindly received and materially aided, by the Sanitary Commission.

My own feelings that the work of both Commissions, though wrought in different departments, should be entirely co-operative, were fully reciprocated by your agents at Cairo, Memphis, and on the Barge on Yazoo River.

My observation of your work on that barge was very pleasant. I saw stores dispensed to needy applicants most freely, and in surprising quantity and variety; and when I got back on the Bluffs, where the sick and wounded were coming into the Division Hospitals, I found bedding with your mark, and dried and canned fruit, and lemons and chickens, which could have been furnished from no other source. I know that, without the timely help of the Sanitary Commission, there would have been destitution, and, consequently, suffering in many of those hospitals.

I want to bear testimony to the noble Christian philanthropy of the men in charge of your Commission in that Department. I am persuaded that they could not do the work from unworthy motives. Money cannot procure such services as you are receiving, for instance, from Dr. Warriner, at Vicksburg.

Every week's experience in my army work, bringing me among the camps and through the hospitals, and giving an opportunity, which I always improve, to look in at the different quarters of your Commission, leads me to a continually higher estimate of the work you have on hand. I am satisfied that your system of distributing hospital stores is the correct one. Such large contributions as the people are making, cannot be handed over to the army on any volunteer system, unless it be for a few days, amid the energies of a severe battle. A business involving such expenditures, would be entrusted by a business man, only to permanent and responsible men.

That among all your employees there should be no unworthy man, is more than

a reasonable mind can ask. The Christian Commission and the Christian Church would go down under that test.

Let me close this letter of thanks, my dear brother, with my daily prayer—a prayer which I learned in your “Soldier’s Home” in Louisville, and have often repeated since in the “Soldier’s Rest” at Memphis, on the “Barge” in Yazoo River, in the Division Hospitals, under the guns of Vicksburg, in the Nashville “Home,” and Store-rooms, and in the camps and hospitals at Murfreesboro—a prayer fresh on my lips, as I have just come from seeing wounded and typhoid patients at Tullahoma and Winchester, lifted from rough blankets, and undressed from the soiled clothes of march and battle, and laid in your clean sheets and shirts, upon your comfortable quilts and pillows—a prayer in which every Christian heart in the land will yet join—God bless the Sanitary Commission!

Most cordially yours,

EDWARD P. SMITH,
Field Agent U. S. Christian Commission.

SOLDIER'S AID SOCIETIES.

Individual and desultory labor accomplishes but little, compared with that which is systematized and concentrated. One earnest woman, whose heart responds to the appeals made in behalf of our sick and wounded Soldiers, can do more for them by enlisting the active sympathy and co-operation of her friends and neighbors than by days and nights of unassisted toil.

Let her call together three or four of the most patriotic and energetic women of the village, and consult with them as to the feasibility of forming a SOLDIER'S AID SOCIETY. Let them determine upon a day and place for a public meeting, to which all the women and young girls of the neighborhood shall be invited. The Pastors of every church should be requested to give this invitation from their pulpits on the ensuing Sunday, a short notice should be put up at the Post-office, and, if possible, inserted in the county paper.

It may be well to ask a gentleman, conversant with the ordinary rules of conducting meetings, to preside on this occasion. His advice in regard to the forms by which the Officers of the Society should be elected, order of business, &c., will be valuable to those who are unaccustomed to it. This formality, which may appear unnecessary to some, is, in reality, important to any efficient action on the part of a Society.

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- II. The President shall read the names of those members present at the previous meeting.
- III. Report of Secretary and Treasurer.
- IV. Report of Cutting Committee (number of garments cut).
- V. Report of Packing Committee.
- VI. The President, or any member deputed by her, shall read any letters or printed matter lately received from the Sanitary Commission.
- VII. At monthly meetings the President shall present a plan of work for the ensuing month.
- VIII. Miscellaneous business.

HOW IS THE TREASURY TO BE SUPPLIED?

The following plan for supplying the Treasury of Village Societies has been in successful operation, for the past two years, in parts of the State of New York and elsewhere :

It depends for its efficiency upon the zeal and activity of the *young people*, who form themselves into an association having for its object the *collection of funds*. We want the little girls, and older ones, too, who so often ask us "if there is anything *they* can do for the soldiers," to feel that we are now answering their question and speaking directly to them.

As the "Alert Club," composed of the little girls and young people of Norwalk, Ohio, has been one of the most active and successful of these associations—collecting \$560.12 in seven months from a little village of only about two thousand inhabitants, and no really wealthy men among them—it is proposed that their name should be adopted for all similar organizations.

The following plan is taken almost entirely from a newspaper article, published by the Soldier's Aid Society of Northern Ohio, Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission :

ALERT CLUB.

The object of the Alert Club is to furnish the Soldier's Aid Society with funds to carry on its operations, and all moneys collected for this purpose are to be unconditionally paid into the Treasury of the Parent Society.

The Club should have a President, Secretary, two Treasurers, and forty Collectors.

The Club appoints its own Collectors, who hold their office for one year, unless re-elected. There is also an annual election for President, Secretary, and Treasurers. The President shall fill all vacancies which may occur during the year.

The President shall preside at the meetings, call the roll of the members—those present answering to their names—and shall read aloud the names of those members present at the previous meeting. She shall also read any letters or printed matter which may have been received from the Secretary of the Parent Society.

The Secretary of the Club shall record the names and address of all members, and at every meeting register the names of those present. The Secretary shall make an Annual Report to the President of the Soldier's Aid Society, at the annual meeting of the Society.

The President is to divide the village and neighborhood into ten districts. Four collectors are then appointed for each district—two for the “ladies’ monthly” and two for the “gentlemen’s monthly.” They are to obtain subscriptions of twenty cents per month among the ladies, and from the gentlemen a monthly subscription of as much as each subscriber is willing to place against his name. The collectors are to call at every house in their respective districts. Every two collectors will be furnished with a little book, in which the names of their subscribers and the sums collected will be entered. The President of the Club will receive books and pencils for this purpose from the Treasurer of the Soldier's Aid Society, who will gladly give the Club any assistance it may need, and whose interest, aid, and encouragement may always be relied upon.

The collectors are to go with their books to every subscriber immediately after the first Monday of every month, and on the following Saturday render their accounts to the Treasurers of the Club, who shall examine them, record the result in each case in a book kept for the purpose, and pay over the sums collected to the Treasurer of the Parent Society,—not later than the following Monday.

At the formation of an Alert Club, it has been found best for the officers of the Club to make the first call at every house, for the purpose of explaining the object of it, and to obtain the names of subscribers. This is only necessary to be done once. The collectors will immediately after make the first round.

The Alert Club shall hold its monthly meetings on those Saturdays when the collectors make their returns. If desired, meetings may be held every fortnight. At their meetings they make slippers, piece quilts and quilt them, and perform such other services as their officers or the Parent Society may suggest. But the main object of the Association being *the collection of funds*, they are not expected to burden themselves by other labor.

Where Clubs have been particularly "on the alert," they have interested themselves in getting up entertainments, concerts, tableaux, strawberry parties, etc., besides the monthly subscriptions, and have materially increased the funds of the Society in this way.

